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CALIFORNIA  
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District and County Superintendents  
Directors of Charter High Schools

**Subject: Algebra I Requirement for High School Diploma**

In the year 2000, *Education Code* §51224.5 was enacted to require that students complete the content of Algebra I as a condition of receiving a high school diploma, beginning with the Class of 2004. We are gratified that virtually every high school in California organized its course offerings and instructional practices to ensure that this year's seniors will have satisfied the Algebra I requirement. California students need and deserve the higher level of mathematics content and achievement reflected in the completion of Algebra I.

However, the State Board of Education (State Board) has been advised that a very small number of seniors in certain high schools – who would otherwise graduate in 2004 – may not have completed Algebra I by the end of the school year.

This letter is to notify you that the State Board will consider as a consent matter narrow, limited waivers of the Algebra I requirement for Class of 2004 students who confront this situation. Consideration of these waivers is premised on the affected students being enrolled in Algebra I during the spring semester and satisfaction of the other provisions listed in the attachment. Please be advised that the State Board indicated its intent not to consider as a consent matter these types of waivers for students in the Class of 2005 and thereafter.

For more information about applying for a narrow, limited waiver of the Algebra I requirement for affected Class of 2004 students your high school(s), please check with the California Department of Education's Waiver Office at (916) 319-0824 or online at [www.cde.ca.gov/waiver/](http://www.cde.ca.gov/waiver/).

Sincerely,

GAVIN PAYNE  
Chief Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction

Attachment